empower the State Governments to grant environmental clearance;

(b) if so, whether any norms have been prescribed for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the guidelines issued to the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Modalities for delegation of powers to State Governments for according environmental clearance to power projects are under finalisation.

Inclusion of Certain Communities in the STs List

659. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) the details of the requests received from the State Governments for inclusion of some more Tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes during the current year;

(b) action taken by the Government of India on each of such request;

(c) whether Sagaras of Visakhapatnam District had also demanded for including them in the list of Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) if so, the action taken or being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Recommendations have been received during the current year from the State Governments of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for the inclusion of two communities as Scheduled Tribes.

(b) These recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Representations have been received for the inclusion of Uppara (Sagara) community in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) These representations are being considered in consultation, inter-alia, with the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Drug Addicts

660. SHRI R. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of drug addicts registered in the Welfare Centres in the year 1994-95 in comparison to 1986-87;

(b) the reasons for enormous increase of the drug addicts; and

(c) the strategy proposed for the prohibition and drug prevention?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) According to the available information, the number of drug addicts registered with the Drug Deaddiction/Counselling/Rehabilitation Centres, financially assisted by the Ministry of Welfare, during the year 1994-95 in 376 Centres was 3,12,118 as compared to 1627 in 7 Centres in 86-87.

(b) The increase in the number of drug addicts registered with the Deaddiction/Counselling Centres over the years can largely be attributed to the manifold increase in the number of Centres and the positive impact of awareness generated by the programmes of prohibition and drug abuse prevention implemented by the Government which has motivated more and more drug addicts to come forward for treatment.

In the absence of any nation wide survey with regard to the extent to the drug abuse problem in the country, it is difficult to establish that the number of drug addicts is increasing in the country. However, different studies undertaken indicate an increasing trend in drug abuse.

Peer Group pressures, curiosity, industrialisation/urbanisation, mounting tension, weakness of the joint family system are some of the apparent reasons which have rendered individuals vulnerable to social maladjustments and deviance such as alcoholism and drug abuse.

(c) The Ministry is implementing the Scheme for Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention since 1985-86 wherein financial assistance is given to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for running Drug Awareness Counselling and Assistance Centres and De-Addiction-cum-rehabilitation Centres. This Ministry is strengthening the awareness buiding, preventive education programmes for drug demand reduction and expand Counselling, De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centres.

India Eco-development Project

661. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Ministe of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) the progress made under the proposed Worl Bank aided India Eco-development Project, so far;

(b) whether there is a controversy among the expert over planning, implementation and formulation c objectives of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps propose to be taken by the Government to resolve th controversy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) World Bank has approved the funding of the Project on the 5th September, 1996 and Agreements have been signed on 30th September, 1996 between the World Bank and the Govt. of India, Governments of Bihar, West Bengal, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, where Project is to be implemented.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The details of the controversies raised and the Government's reaction thereon, is given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

The main controversies raised by a group of experts are as under :

(1) Adopting a model of expenditure of about 4-5 crores per protected area per year when current level of investments is only 5-10 lakhs per area a year.

(2) Such high investment around protected area fringe will lead to congregation and migration of people to the fringes of protected are from areas of low investments.

(3) Out of 500 protected areas such a huge investment is being done only in 7 areas. This will create a sense of deprivation within the fringe dwellers of other areas leading to apathy if not antipathy in terms of coservation of other protected areas.

(4) With so much investment in equipment, office functioning and infrastructure, we are going to create urban facilities in the set up of protected areas breaking age old balance of nature and natural set up of protected area.

(5) Certain items of activities specially economic activities which are aimed towards uplifting the economic status of the fringe dwellers, is heavily tilted towards rural development.

Government do not consider these points controversial for the reason the concept has been developed on the basis of the report of the task force appointed by Indian Board of Wildlife in this regard in 1983. Activities undertaken or proposed to be undertaken in the project have been in line of activities listed in the E.F.C. Memo approved for National Eco-development Scheme.

The seven protected areas are pilot sites for implementation of Eco-development Project where investment may appear very high, but the actual expenditure comes to Rs. 2000 per family per annum which is just enough to meet the basic needs of fringe dwellers.

The investment on infrastructural development including construction and consultancies has been proposed as per the need of each areas. Successfull implementation of this model is likely to attract more financial aids from outside which will enable us to cover more areas in future.

Development of Horticulture

662. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise estimated land under horticultue as on June, 30 1996 and the details of estimated horticulture produce with percentage increase in land, production and investment made during the last five years;

(b) the details of the schemes executed for the promotion of horticulture and floriculture during the Eighth Five Year Plan, year-wise and State-wise along with progress achieved thereunder in each State during the said period;

(c) the amount allocated for the implementation of these schemes by the Central Government during the said period, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to allocate extra funds for the promotion of horticulture produce;

(e) if so, the details thereof, produce-wise; and

(f) the details of measures taken/proposed to be taken to provide improved post harvest infrasturcture for the horticulture produces?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Estimated land under horticulture as on 30th June, 1996 is not available. Latest information on area and production of major horticulture crops is given in Statement-I enclosed.

The details of percentage increase in land and production of horticulture crops between 1991-92 and 1993-94 is given in Statement-II enclosed.

The Central releases made during the last five years to various States for horticulture development is Rs. 520.94 crores.

(b) The information is being collected and will be furnished.

(c) Statement-III is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir.